



## State of New Jersey

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### **ALBERT G. KROLL RESIGNS AS NEW JERSEY LABOR COMMISSIONER** *Governor McGreevey names Deputy Commissioner Kevin P. McCabe as his successor*

(ATLANTIC CITY) – Governor James E. McGreevey regrettably accepted the resignation of Department of Labor Commissioner Albert G. Kroll at the annual New Jersey AFL-CIO Convention Wednesday. The Governor also announced he will nominate Deputy Commissioner Kevin P. McCabe as Commissioner Kroll's successor.

Commissioner Kroll, an accomplished labor law attorney, brought extensive experience to the position and helped transform the mission and perception of the Department of Labor's role.

"What Commissioner Kroll has done for New Jersey, and for our workers, can't be overstated," Governor McGreevey said. "Simply put, he helped transform our workforce development system – one of the key reasons for New Jersey's outstanding economic success. We are well on the way to creating one of the most highly skilled, highly trained and best educated workforces in America thanks to his efforts in consolidating all workforce development programs under the Department of Labor.

"Commissioner Kroll focused not just on the system, but on the individuals who stand to benefit from job training – whether it's training to help them find their first job, or to help them turn a good career into a great one. He created a fully integrated system of One-Stop Career Centers, which lets individuals come to a single location for all their training needs.

"And he recognized another important truth: A worker who has all the skills in the world won't benefit if New Jersey doesn't have a strong employer base. So he took the initiative to create Business Resource Centers, which are opening across the state. And he put a special emphasis on customized training programs for businesses – programs that help companies stay competitive by giving their workers the latest skills.

"Having done all that great work, Commissioner Kroll said it was still not enough. Too many citizens still were not adequately employed. So the Commissioner helped us establish programs like Upward Mobility in Camden, Jobs for America's Graduates in Trenton, and the Construction Trades Training for Women and Minorities across the State – all to ensure that every New Jerseyan can build a better career.

"Commissioner Kroll's leadership will be missed. But his partner in all of these efforts, Deputy Commissioner Kevin McCabe, will make a strong replacement in continuing this workforce development revolution," the Governor continued.

Commissioner Kroll made the announcement during Wednesday morning's session of the AFL-CIO conference.

"When I first came into office, I made it clear that my top priorities would be creating the most highly skilled, highly trained, and best educated workforce in the nation, and in turn ensuring that those workers get the wages and benefits they are entitled under law in return for their hard work. I believe we have made extraordinary

progress towards those goals. We have taken a workforce development system that was spread out over three state agencies, that was duplicative and bureaucratic, and we will soon make it an example for the nation of an integrated system under the newly named Department of Labor and Workforce Development. It has been a pleasure to serve in Governor McGreevey's Cabinet, and I am proud of the record we have established as partners on these issues."

Kevin P. McCabe brings ten years of public service and a strong commitment to working New Jerseyans. In his role as Deputy Commissioner, McCabe oversees New Jersey's workforce development programs and departmental operations. Since becoming deputy commissioner in 2002, Kevin has worked with Commissioner Albert G. Kroll and the entire McGreevey administration on an ambitious effort to make it easier for workers and employers to navigate the job creation system. He has led the day-to-day efforts to restructure New Jersey's workforce development programs, create truly integrated One-Stop Career Centers, and move forward with the initiative to create Business Resource Centers.

"It is truly an honor to be nominated for this position," McCabe said. "Over the past two and a half years, I have had the opportunity to work in partnership with Governor McGreevey and Commissioner Kroll on meeting our collective goals for job creation and workforce development. We have a strong record, but there is always more that can be done, and I look forward to the challenge and opportunity of furthering our mission on behalf of New Jersey's citizens. I am especially excited about working closely with the AFL-CIO and the education community on the implementation of our college credit for apprenticeships initiative."

McCabe, 31, graduated from Kean University with a degree in political science and will soon complete a masters in public administration from Rutgers University. He resides in Freehold.

"Deputy Commissioner McCabe is uniquely qualified to succeed me and is the only individual who can provide a seamless transition in accomplishing the various initiatives we have underway," Kroll said.

Under Commissioner Kroll and Deputy Commissioner McCabe's leadership, the department's achievements include:

- The creation of 59,000 jobs in the past twelve months, ranking fourth in the nation in job creation.
- The recovery of \$25.7 million in wages owed to New Jersey workers due to violations of the state's wage and hour laws.
- The revocation of the licenses of 41 prevailing wage contractors and the debarment of an additional 267 contractors due to violations of the state's Prevailing Wage Act.
- The consolidation of all workforce development programs under a newly named "Department of Labor and Workforce Development," which has sped the process of creating truly integrated one stop shopping for job and skills training.
- The opening of Business Resource Centers across the state, which will be integrated into the existing One Stop Career Centers and offer services including pre-screening and assessment of job applicants, on-site interview and smaller scale job fairs, information on customized training for existing workers and information on assistance programs available for workers.
- The creation of a study which, for the first time, outlines the future of the State's job market and the skills that will be needed to succeed in tomorrow's jobs.
- The training of more than 88,000 workers through the Department's customized training and literacy programs since fiscal year 2002, representing a total investment of almost \$48 million in workforce training.
- The opening of 40 Workforce Learning Link Labs across state. These labs will provide individualized computer learning in math, reading language, and workplace communications skills.
- Customized training grant applications, Unemployment Insurance applications, detailed labor market information, and Worker's compensation information are all available online for the first time.
- Providing innovative programs like the Women's Distance Learning Program and Jobs for America's Graduates, to ensure that all New Jersey citizens will have access to skills training and job opportunities.

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